

# HERITAGE of Care

# THE BETHESDA LETTER

BETHESDA HOME...independence, respect, dignity since 1899



*Fern Ensz (not pictured), Viola Griffin (left) and Brenda Meier (right) are a few of the wonderful residents that make up the Bethesda community.*

## Getting to Know Our Residents

Life is best experienced together in a community of people who can relate to one another. That makes Bethesda Home the perfect place to live. It is important for everyone connected to Bethesda Home to get to know some of the people who make up the community that is cared for so much.

Fern Ensz has experienced the benefits of living here since she arrived on April 13, 2017.

“I was living in Phoenix, AZ and had a stroke after my husband died. I was recovering from that and then had a pretty bad fall. It was then that I realized I needed to move into a place that could provide me with some assistance,” Ensz said.

Ensz found that Bethesda Home was willing to do something many other places wouldn't.

“They worked with me and got things all setup, even though my house had not been sold yet. Bethesda worked with me until the money was available,” she said.

Ensz was born in Copeland, KS and had moved with her family to New Mexico on a missionary assignment. From there they moved to Phoenix, AZ and then to the Philippines.

“We spent five years in the Philippines. We had quite a few baptisms and marriages. These were the highlights of our time there,” said Ensz.

Some of Ensz's hobbies have been quilting and embroidery, but that was mostly before her stroke.

### What's Inside?

- In Memory
- Message from the CEO
- Estate Planning
- Life Enrichment Report
- Opportunity for Philanthropy
- And more!



#### REMINDER

Please send us your email address if you would like to receive the newsletter and other communications electronically.

Send an email to [pflaming@bethesdahome.org](mailto:pflaming@bethesdahome.org) or call 620-367-2291.

Current and past newsletters can be viewed on our website [www.bethesdahome.org](http://www.bethesdahome.org) under the “About” heading.



Follow Bethesda's current news and resident activities on our Facebook page.

“Like” us!

We welcome your comments.

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

“My husband died in 2014 and then my kids bought me a dog. I loved having a dog and really enjoy Bethesda’s therapy dogs that they bring around.”

The Bethesda pooches are Caesar and Prince.

Most of Fern’s family still lives in Phoenix but she has a son, Ron, in Iowa and a daughter who lives in Galva, KS. Her children come to visit regularly and they enjoy talking on the phone as much as they can.

When it comes to activities at Bethesda, Ensz says she enjoys them all.

“I really like bend and stretch, story time and Gail Graber’s Bible studies. I like to get outside to the butterfly garden and sometimes we’ll go out on the walking trail when the weather is nice,” she said. “We also play bingo two times a week.”

“The community, the care and the food are all great here at Bethesda,” said Ensz.

Viola Griffin is another resident who makes up the great community at Bethesda. She had a friend who was here who really loved it. After becoming sick, her boys checked into Bethesda. There was a room available and she decided it was the right move to make.

“I was living in a four-plex in North Newton and knew I shouldn’t be living alone anymore,” she said. “My husband and I lived in Newton and then Halstead.”

After Viola’s husband died, she moved back to Newton. She had always been aware of Bethesda and always thought of it as a possibility. She has two boys, Dale who lives in Moundridge, KS and Lester, who lives in Hutchinson, KS.

Griffin loves to be around people. The evidence of that is the 40 plus years she had worked as a waitress. Pete Flaming, director of development, met Griffin shortly after she moved in and recognized her from somewhere. It was when she mentioned that she used to wait tables at the Village restaurant in Newton that he realized he had known her from the times he and his family had eaten there over the years.

When asked how she has been enjoying life at Bethesda since coming in May of 2016, she said that she really likes the activities and the care she receives.

“I was talking to one of the CNA’s, who has worked at many places, and she told me that this is the nicest one. She told me not to even think about looking around for a better option because there just isn’t one. I agree!” said Griffin.

Some of the best things the Bethesda has to offer are the people, the amenities, the activities and the overall experience.

“I love it here and I have been very happy,” said Griffin.

Brenda Meier is a resident in one of the duplexes on Meadowlane. She had been living in Wichita, KS for more

than 50 years and finally felt that it was time to scale down from her house and move to Bethesda.

“My son Greg and his wife Suzanne live in Goessel and they said it would be good to check out Bethesda. There was an open duplex and I decided it was time to move closer to one of my kids,” she said.

Her older son, Scott and his family live in Florida. “Greg’s family and I flew to Florida in March, so I was able to visit all six of my grandchildren at once,” said Meyer.

“They come to visit when they can but I couldn’t deal with the humidity in Florida.”

Meier’s twin granddaughters will be going to K-State in the fall and it has been a blessing to be so close to them during their senior year at Goessel High School. Another granddaughter, Grace, just started Kindergarten.

“I moved in July of 2017 and it has been really nice to live here,” she said. “It has been such a welcoming community and my neighbors are really nice. I’m getting used to the pace of life here and am thankful for what Bethesda has to offer,” she said.

---

### **Duplexes available for Monthly Rental or Life Lease Program**

Currently Bethesda has four duplexes open and ready for someone to move into! There are two open duplexes on Marion Street and two open in Meadowlane. Treat yourself to maintenance free living, good neighbors, and the benefits that Bethesda offers. We would love to have you join our Bethesda family! If you are interested in looking at them or receiving some information, please let Sara Hiebert know.

---

## **In Memory**

**Since March, 2017**

Arlo Schmidt 3-27-18

Milda Reimer 4-26-18

Harold Woelk 6-12-18

## In fond memory of Christina Miller & Rhonda Hannon

May 22, 2018 was a devastating day for the families of Christina Miller and Rhonda Hannon and for the staff and residents of Bethesda Home. On that day, Christina and Rhonda were tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident north of Goessel. Christina had been employed for 24 years at Bethesda and Rhonda was getting close to celebrating a one-year anniversary. This accident left our small community in shambles as we mourn their loss. Not only did Christina and Rhonda work here but both of them have sisters that are also employees, Melinda Cairns and Jennifer Hagewood. This has been a difficult time for everyone and we thank you for your support, acts of kindness and prayers.

### A note from Melinda Cairns, Christina Miller's sister

When I came to Bethesda 25 years ago, one of the things that I observed and appreciated was the commitment and support that families provided to their loved ones. At that time, I began to realize what a special place Bethesda was. Over these 25 years I have discovered that Bethesda is special because it is a family built of the special people we care for and love, the co-workers/friends and the family members and friends that walk through the doors. Although the

loss of my dear sister, Christina has been heartbreaking for me it is also been heartwarming and humbling to experience the love and care shown here at Bethesda over the past few weeks through the many kind words, prayers and hugs received. I felt this was the best way to let each and everyone of you know how thankful I and my family are for your support, your hugs and your prayers. I pray that God blesses each and everyone of you.

Love to all - Melinda Cairns



*Christina Miller and Rhonda Hannon*

## Tax-Free Gift Option for those 70½ and older

Persons over 70 ½ may make a donation of up to \$100,000 to Bethesda from their IRA account to avoid the disbursement as taxable income. Contact your account

manager and have them direct your Minimum Required Distribution to Bethesda Home. THANKS to those who have already done so.

## Annual Meeting Report (summary report, May 30, 2018)

A positive Financial Audit report was given by Matt Morris of BKD, applauding administration and the board for making good decisions. Bethesda was able to fund nearly all of depreciation to cover the Medicaid shortfall, which was better than the previous year.

New board members, Darla Banman and Lynette Duerksen were elected to replace Pat Flaming and Morgan Kaufman. Other board members are Karl Brubaker, Marjean Harris, Bonnie Janzen, Jared Jost, Pat Rupp, Eileen Schmidt, Duane Unruh, Jason Unruh and Verney Voth.

Sara Hiebert presented the vision for the Resident Life Enrichment campaign (noted in CEO Corner). A fund-

raising campaign will be launched this year to continue the Bethesda tradition of having all funds secured or pledged before construction begins.

Pete Flaming shared that donor generosity was the highest for non-capital campaign years over the past 22 years, thanks in-part to a significant bequest gift. The largest gifts came from bequest gifts, calendar year-end gifts, the Pillars Banquet, area church offerings, newsletter responses, and memorial gifts.

Your financial gifts and God's leading provide the foundation for Bethesda's sustainability to meet the needs of our family of residents. Thanks for being a partner in our ministry!

## CEO Corner



Life is full of changes. Changes can be good, bad, overwhelming and exhilarating. And as hard as we try to avoid change, it is inevitable. Recently Bethesda Home has undergone a change – a change that we love and yet realize that not everyone understands. Two and a half years ago, Bethesda closed the Special Care Unit due

to a variety of reasons, including change in philosophy of care of those with Alzheimer's, scrutiny from the state and staffing shortages. For the past two years the Board of Directors and Bethesda Administration have looked at ways to utilize the beautiful 12 bed unit that was built in 2000. Discussion after discussion took place with no good outcomes. As we were preparing for our FY2019 Budget, an idea surfaced – move the administrative offices to the former Special Care Unit. The West Annex office area was in dire need of upgrades. The windows and doors needed to be replaced, a cost of nearly \$26,000 plus we had to replace the sprinkler system, a cost of \$49,000. Another item of concern was the limited access residents had to administrative staff. The ramp was a barrier for many plus some of the doors were not wide enough for wheelchair

access. Knowing that we had a beautiful area not being used that could adequately accommodate residents and staff, the discussion began looking to move offices. After months of research, cost analysis, feedback from Bethesda constituency and lots of prayers, we made the plunge and moved offices. This past month has been such a blessing to us office staff and the residents. We are able to interact daily with residents as they utilize the living room area for activities, we can hear their hallway conversations from our offices and they have been able to come and visit and conduct business effortlessly. We believe it has been a win win! This move was essentially minimal cost – only internet wiring was required to move the offices. In the next phase, one you will be hearing about and will be asked for help with is a campaign to raise funds for an outside entrance on the north side for those wishing to do business with administration without going through the facility, and for families to access the beautiful dining room space for family gatherings. Included in this remodel will also be replacing the current roof which desperately needs repaired. Also included will be the demolition of the ramp and construction of a wall on the west end of Willow neighborhood. In order to use the West Annex without replacing the sprinkler system the two buildings have to be disconnected. The West Annex will be used for storage –something we have not had enough of! These are exciting times for us and we hope you join us in our enthusiasm! Please stop by and take a look!

---

## Estate Planning Something Every Believer Should Do - NOW

Through estate planning, believers can leave an inheritance to our families and have a lasting impact on ministries through the creation of wills, trusts, and other estate planning documents that define your wishes.

Many believers, even those who are faithful in stewardship in their lives, fail to plan their final act of stewardship. This happens for a number of reasons:

- “I’m too young to do that, and it requires me to think of death, not living for today.”
- “I’ll do it sometime, but not now.” “I don’t have time to do it now.”
- “It is such a complex process.”  
*(With the proper help it becomes burden reliever.)*

- “How much is it going to cost me?”

There is value for the Believer - At the end of the Parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12, Jesus asks a haunting question: “You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you have worked for?” *(NLT)* The fool in the story hoarded wealth for himself and made no plans for how he would pass it on. By contrast, God calls his people to be generous stewards in this life and to pass on a legacy when this life is done. That legacy includes all we leave behind: monetary assets, our values, and hard-earned wisdom. Estate planning is a key component of leaving this legacy.

Bethesda will co-host *(with other local charities)* a **Generosity & Estate Planning training session** with Everence at the **Meridian Center in Newton September 25 at 6:30 p.m.** Content will include some nuts and bolts talk from attorneys, finance and tax professionals, as well as a significant input regarding our spiritual call to generosity and planning. Some may have received an invitation, but others are also welcome. Contact Pete Flaming if you would like to attend, or to ask for some forms that may be helpful in gathering information needed to prepare a will or trust.

*(Excerpts of content above provided by Good Sense Movement ministry)*

## Life Enrichment Director Report

We have been enjoying some culture here at Bethesda this past spring. We decided to declare April to be, "Fine Arts Month." We enjoyed a presentation of pottery making by Tom Unzicker, a woodworking demonstration by John Buckner and a presentation of woodworking by Bruce Funk. We invited the Bethel College String Quartet to play for the residents at our Spring Banquet; we got treated to some opera by Douglin Schmidt; Velera Adams, award-winning artist, displayed and demonstrated her painting for us and Kacie McGee Schmidt came and gave painting lessons to a number of residents and duplex residents. We ended our month with some dancers from the Bethel Academy of Performing Arts.

We also tried something new for Bethesda by having a mini MCC Sale right in our chapel. Staff members donated baked items, which were sold with money going to MCC. In addition, we displayed various crafts and handwork which was to be donated to MCC for the Relief Sale. Rick Woelk, our technology manager, set up a computer which showed the quilts to be auctioned off at the sale. Residents enjoyed seeing the many beautiful quilts while eating freshly-made New Year's Cookies. It felt good to be able to work together to support the efforts of MCC.

After celebrating National Volunteer Week, National Nursing Home Week, Mother's Day and Father's Day, we are into our summer plans, full-swing. We are enjoying our first group of 12 Jr. Volunteers, who come and help with various activities and interact with the residents. Starting in July, we'll welcome our second group of nine volunteers. We can still take a few more youngsters, age 10-14 who might like to volunteer the month of July. Contact Gayle Voth, DLE, if interested!



*Dancers from the Bethel Academy of Performing Arts perform for residents during "Fine Arts Month."*



*Faith and Stephen Stauffer share their gift of music.*



*Residents enjoy a painting demonstration from Velera Adams.*

## Volunteer Opportunities at Bethesda

Bethesda Home is always looking for friendly, compassionate and reliable volunteers to help us with day to day life enriching activities, special events and outings. There are a wide variety of jobs available to volunteers, so no matter what your interests are, we will have a way for you to help out!

Some suggested life enriching volunteer opportunities include:

- [Nurture social relationships with Bethesda residents](#)

Some residents, due to cognitive decline, are only marginally involved in planned activities. These residents benefit from one on one time by visiting, reading, singing, and/or coloring with them, showing them pictures, etc. to provide stimulation and social engagement.

- [Provide Life Enrichment Activities](#)

We provide a variety of activities for our residents, and welcome others to share their gifts and talents i.e. story telling, Low German conversations, singing or playing an instrument, painting, dancing, sharing of hobbies, etc.

- [Share on the big screen.](#)

Slideshows, power point presentations, videos area all visual avenues to provide conversation, cognitive stimulation and reminiscing for our residents. If you have traveled or found some old photos of yesteryear, we are ready to see and hear about them.

A full list of opportunities is on the web site under the "Ways to Give \$ and Time" tab. Contact Gayle Voth, DLE, if interested.



## Mennonite Bethesda Society

408-412 East Main  
Goessel, KS 67053-0037

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hillsboro, KS  
Permit No. 57

### THE BETHESDA LETTER

is published by

**Mennonite Bethesda  
Society, Inc.,**  
Goessel, KS 67053  
(620)367-2291  
FAX 620-367-2294  
[www.bethesdahome.org](http://www.bethesdahome.org)

**CEO**  
Sara Hiebert

[www.bethesdahome.org](http://www.bethesdahome.org)

**Do you enjoy reading the Bethesda newsletter? A 5\$ donation would help us keep the Bethesda Letter coming in the future. A gift of any size is a blessing to our residents. Thank you!**

## Pete's Opportunity for Philanthropy

### AmazonSmile

We just received our first quarterly check of \$26.37 – for purchases made from March 16 (when we signed up) thru March 31! That's for just 15 days of activity! We look forward to the revenue of a full quarter of purchases made by you, our Bethesda supporters.

For details of how to use AmazonSmile go to our website, [Bethesdahome.org](http://Bethesdahome.org), and click on the "Ways to Give \$ and Time" tab, then "Make a donation" and scroll all the way down to "Amazon Shoppers...". Thanks for naming Bethesda Home as your charity of choice for donations.

### Pillars Banquet

Mark your calendars for the Pillars Banquet on November 4 at the Cross Wind Conference Center – 5:30 social hour, meal at 6 p.m.

We have reached out and are waiting to hear back on confirmation for a good evening of entertainment. Watch for more details on our web site, area posters, and area church bulletins.

It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it.  
– Benjamin Franklin

People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously.  
This is how character is built. - Eleanor Roosevelt